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**Elected Officials, Business Leaders Voice Support for
Partnership to Improve Rail Corridor Service in the Bay Area**

SAN JOSE, Calif. – Following the approval of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) by the California High-Speed Rail Authority Board of Directors and the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board of Directors, business leaders and public officials voiced strong support for an improved and modernized Caltrain rail corridor between San Francisco and San Jose.

Federal Railroad Administrator Joseph C. Szabo: "Thanks to federal and state investments in high-speed and higher-performing intercity passenger rail, long-awaited regional rail projects like the electrification of Caltrain are able to move forward. Building high-speed rail and modernizing regional systems like Caltrain is a game-changer for California. At half the cost of highway and airport expansion, rail will tie together the world's eighth largest economy like never before, making California a better place to live, or start a business and hire new workers."

U.S. Rep Anna Eshoo: "This agreement cements our commitment to a two-track, blended system for Caltrain on the Peninsula," Rep. Eshoo said. "An electrified, two-track system honors our communities through which Caltrain travels, with the benefits of a 90 percent reduction in pollution and a 64 percent reduction in energy consumption. High ridership, faster, more frequent trains and environmental pluses all make this a win for Peninsulans."

U.S. Rep. Jackie Speier: "Caltrain is an ideal partner because it has the ability to work closely with the California High-Speed Rail Authority to provide an improved corridor that allows a single-seat ride from San Francisco to Los Angeles. The blended system will permit the least disruption along the existing corridor while fulfilling the wishes of the public for high-speed service at some point in the future."

California Business, Transportation & Housing Agency Acting Secretary Brian Kelly: "This agreement is about preserving California's existing rail infrastructure while making new investments in transportation technology to carry us far into the future. The project will create new jobs, shorten travel times and boost property values."

State Sen. Jerry Hill: "This is a great moment for the Peninsula because the new MOU, which tracks my Peninsula Protections legislation, provides further assurance that the key parties in this rail project are committed to advancing a blended system corridor between San Francisco and San Jose," said Senator Jerry Hill, D-San Mateo. "The Blended System is an investment in our future and I'm pleased to support the MOU and legislative safeguards that will make our shared vision a reality."

State Asm. Kevin Mullin: “I am encouraged by the proposed Caltrain and California High-Speed Rail Authority memorandum of understanding which confirms a commitment to a two-track system only, and that the rail corridor remains in Caltrain ownership. Additionally, I am pleased to see that our community concerns and interests will be included as part of the agreement. Caltrain is the commuter backbone of the Peninsula, and I am eagerly anticipating the electrification of the line.”

State Asm. Rich Gordon: “After years of studies, planning and discussion, Caltrain electrification will now be a reality. With the signing of this MOU, modernization of the Caltrain system will begin, creating a true, 21st century rail system for the Peninsula.”

San Mateo County Supervisor Adrienne Tissier: “By approving this MOU, Caltrain and the High Speed Rail Authority are reaffirming that HSR will be designed in a way that maximizes the benefit to local communities. With this agreement in place, Peninsula residents can look forward to a state-of-the-art rail system that reduces traffic, improves air quality, grows the economy and helps connects local communities more effectively to each other and the rest of the state.”

Bay Area Council CEO & President Jim Wunderman: “Caltrain serves one of the most economically productive corridors in California and the nation, and one of the busiest and most congested commuter corridors in the Bay Area region. The new MOU between Caltrain and the high speed rail authority is another important step forward for the modernization of the Caltrain corridor. Modernizing this vital transportation system will boost ridership and remove thousands of cars a day from Highway 101. Most importantly, it will keep this unparalleled corridor of innovation and prosperity functioning for employers, workers, and residents, so that it will remain the place where ‘the next big thing’ is born.”

Silicon Valley Leadership Group CEO & California Transportation Commission Vice-Chair Carl Guardino: “With this agreement, we meet our mobility needs both today and tomorrow. The blended approach for high-speed and commuter rail along the Peninsula represents the right move for the Bay Area and the State of California, modernizing Caltrain in the near term and eventually transforming mobility statewide.”

SAMCEDA CEO Rosanne Foust: “The new MOU between Caltrain and the CHSRA can move both projects forward by providing funding and clear principles for implementation. The MOU also addresses key concerns expressed by Peninsula communities about the blended system, including assurances that it will be primarily two tracks substantially within the current JPB right-of-way. It is also important to us that the MOU expresses respect for the interests of local stakeholders, and that Caltrain will mutually agree with CHSRA on final project design and construction plans for the blended system.”

Redwood City/San Mateo County Chamber of Commerce Board Chair Stacey Wagner: “As longtime proponents of both Caltrain modernization and a statewide high-speed rail system, we are eager to advance these projects that will bring tremendous economic benefits to our region and the state.”

Sequoia Hospital President and CEO Glenna L. Vaskelis: “Sequoia Hospital supports our Chamber’s advocacy for modernized Caltrain service by 2019 and a statewide high speed rail system that connects to the Peninsula by 2029. Approval of the proposed MOU is a major step

towards keeping both projects on track and bringing substantial benefits to our employees, the region and the state of California.”

Friends of Caltrain Adina Levin: “We are very pleased that Caltrain and High Speed Rail are updating their agreement with support for the blended system. We expect that this MOU will launch the close collaboration that will be needed to design, fund, and operate a blended system that supports our San Francisco Peninsula community transit needs and long distance travel for the state.”

About California High-Speed Rail Authority

The California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority) is responsible for planning, designing, building and operation of the first high-speed rail system in the nation. By 2029, the system will run from San Francisco to the Los Angeles basin in under three hours at speeds capable of over 200 miles per hour. The system will eventually extend to Sacramento and San Diego, totaling 800 miles with up to 24 stations. In addition, the Authority is working with regional partners to implement a statewide rail modernization plan that will invest billions of dollars in local and regional rail lines to meet the state’s 21st century transportation needs. To learn more visit the Authority’s website at cahighspeedrail.ca.gov and join us on facebook.com/CaliforniaHighSpeedRail and follow us at twitter.com/cahsra/.

About Caltrain

Owned and operated by the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board, Caltrain provides commuter rail service from San Francisco to San Jose, with limited commute service to Gilroy. Caltrain has enjoyed 28 consecutive months of ridership increases, surpassing more than 50,000 average weekday riders earlier this year. While the Joint Powers Board assumed operating responsibilities for the service in 1992, the railroad will celebrate 150 years of continuous passenger service in 2014. Planning for the next 150 years of Peninsula rail service, Caltrain is on pace to electrify the corridor by 2019, reducing diesel emissions by 90 percent and adding more service to more stations. For more information regarding the Caltrain electrification projects, please visit www.caltrain.com/caltrainmod. Follow Caltrain on Facebook at www.facebook.com/caltrain or on twitter [@Caltrain_News](https://twitter.com/Caltrain_News).

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